

PREVENTING FAMINE

Russia Is Adopting Uncle Jerry Rusk's System of Doing Business.

CROP REPORTS ARE GOOD

And a Recurrence of the Suffering of 1892 Is Not Feared.

WHAT THE GOVERNMENT HAS DONE

Our Donations but a Drop in the Bucket Compared With Its.

CARPENTER'S SKETCHES OF THE PEOPLE

(CORRESPONDENCE OF THE DISPATCH.)

ST. PETERSBURG, July 13.

THE PEASANTS have sown their crops and the prospect is that Russia will have a fine yield this year. The reports, which are received daily here from the famine districts, are very encouraging, and, though the famine is still raging, the backbone of the demon of Russian starvation will, it is believed, be broken by the 1st of September, when the harvest will have been gathered in.

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it. The peasants themselves are like children, and they require the advice and the care of children. These people of Russia of the highest classes go and stay with them, accompanied then by their wives and children, and nurse them. There are but few doctors—and nurse them. With them is the Russian Red Cross, which has raised about \$35,000,000 for the sufferers, and which works, as do all outside institutions, directly under the Government.

Adopting Jerry Rusk's System.

The Government of Russia is planning great works to prevent the recurrence of such a condition as now exists. A fund of \$10,000,000 will be used to build elevators and places for the storage of grain in all of the various districts, and through our Consul General, Dr. John M. Crawford, the Interior Department has investigated our system of crop reports, and has just now decided to adopt this system for Russia. Secretary Rusk forwarded full information, and from now on the same organized system that we have constructed will be in force here. Heretofore Russia has had no agricultural statistics and the peasants have lived from hand to mouth. They are not economical or thrifty nor do they have any sense of the word, and it requires a study of their character and their condition to understand the situation.

Thirty years ago they were in the condition to a great extent of our slaves at the South, and if to-day the negro and the plater had been left to work out their salvation at the close of the war without the aid of the money and the spirit of the North they would probably be of somewhat the same character as these people are here to-day. This statement may, however, be mistaken. The two races are far different in character, and after my journey through the back districts and along regions of the Volga I will give a letter describing the customs and habits of the Russian people, which are like those of no other people in the world. My idea is not to write so much as to describe.

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wear coats of homespun, with long frocks, and even such as dress in sheepskins, and the fur turned in, have their coats reaching to the knees, and in St. Petersburg I see few without overcoats, but further south the peasant man's dress is of red calico, shirt and pantaloons, the shirt-coat outside the pants, and a belt of waist, and his feet are covered with a sort of coarse worn straw shoe and his ankles are swaddled in rags.

The better class of poor people or the ordinarily well-to-do men here wear long coats, with top boots, and the national cap is worn by nearly everyone. This is to a large extent the costume of the rich, though the wealthy all over the civilized world dress much the same as we do. The difference there is largely in the quality of the goods worn, and St. Petersburg may be said to be a city where the people wear ulsters, caps and high boots the year around, no matter whether it be as hot as Tophet or as cold as Alaska. These Russian boots are worth looking at. They are about the only cheap thing in Russia, and you can get a pair made to order for \$3. The same leather and the same work in the United States would cost you \$25, and the kind of the best leather is made as that of a portfolio or pocket book.

The Boots Characteristic of Russia. These boots reach to the knees, and the best of them shine like patent leather. The pantaloons are always tucked inside of them and there is a fancy section about six inches wide above the ankle of every boot, in which the leather lies in wrinkles with the regularity of a washboard. It takes at least twice as much leather to make a pair of Russian boots as it does an American pair, and the same may be said of the Russian overcoat. The drotsky drivers wear more cloth than any other cabmen the world over. It takes more of good cloth—for the blue goods they wear seem to be of excellent material—to make a drotsky driver's coat than to make a lady's trained ball dress, and this coat has to be padded and quilted.

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